



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

POST OFFICE BOX 6638 * PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85005-6638

Date: August 9, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Direct Inquiries to: Bart Graves

Contact Information: Bgraves@azdps.gov

Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers Seize almost \$8 Million in U.S. Currency during the month of July

Several traffic stops by Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officers along with efforts by DPS Criminal Investigators resulted in the seizure of \$7,937,526 in drug money during the month of July, 2007. All of the money seized was U.S. Currency.

The largest amount of money seized by DPS during a single traffic stop during the month occurred on July 12 when a DPS Canine Officer stopped a white 2007 Dodge F250. The truck, which had a Texas license plate, was pulling a Silver 2006 Featherlite Trailer with a North Carolina license plate. The traffic stop occurred on the southbound lanes of Interstate 17 near Camp Verde. Inside the trailer were two white 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazers. A search of these vehicles by a DPS Canine resulted in the discovery of \$649,171 in cash concealed in the seats of both Trailblazers.

Arizona Department of Public Safety Director Roger Vanderpool says the state is unfortunately a major corridor for drug trafficking. In many cases DPS Officers will seize hundreds of pounds of marijuana or cocaine along with huge amounts of drug related cash during a single traffic stop. The cash officers seize is typically profits taken from the drug trade and often used to further finance the manufacturing, sale and distribution of illegal drugs in Arizona and across the country. The seizure of nearly \$8 million in drug money by DPS in July shows the enormous scope of the problem.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.